

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
AND MICHAEL ANTONOVICH

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As a geographic region, the San Fernando Valley encompasses the cities of San Fernando, Burbank, Glendale and Calabasas as well as portions of the City of Los Angeles, parts of unincorporated Los Angeles County, and parts of unincorporated Ventura County. Because this region is physically so distinct, many residents of the San Fernando Valley identify as such and many business and non-profit groups have been organized to serve the entire San Fernando Valley.

In seeking to serve the San Fernando Valley, businesses and non-profits are handicapped by the fact that government statistics are not kept for the area as a whole. The Valley portion of the City of Los Angeles is aggregated with the rest of the City which stretches as far as Venice, downtown and San Pedro. The unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County within the San Fernando Valley are grouped together for statistical purposes with unincorporated areas as far away as the Antelope Valley, East Los Angeles, Hacienda Heights and Carson. And statistics for the smaller San Fernando Valley cities are never added to those of the City and County to create a picture of the entire area.

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This creates a problem for the many non-profit associations which exist to serve the San Fernando Valley as a whole. When applying for grants or government funding they are frequently asked to supply data on their service area; in fact, Requests for Proposal issued by the County often request this sort of information. The same problem extends to private fund-raising. Economic development efforts in the San Fernando Valley are similarly hampered by the lack of solid information on the full extent of the employment and sales markets. Schools and hospitals have the same problem when attempting to assess target populations and needs. Even government agencies which seek to respond to problems on a regional basis – for example, housing, employment development and economic development departments – would benefit from the provision of statistical information on a San Fernando Valley-wide basis.

The Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) has proposed that the U.S. Census Bureau be requested to report census data for the entire San Fernando Valley. This could be done by creating a “County Civil Division” or “CCD” encompassing all the relevant census tracts, and crossing city or county boundaries where necessary. Grouping of census data in this manner to create meaningful statistical data is common in the eastern United States but is not normally done in the west. The County’s Chief Administrative Officer reports that the Census Bureau could create such a CCD upon request from local government entities.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board send a five-signature letter to the U.S. Census Bureau requesting the creation of a County Civil Division (CCD), or similar grouping, for the San Fernando Valley as a whole, and that County staff be instructed to work with the Census Bureau, the State, the City of Los Angeles, the Valley Industry & Commerce Association, and other local government entities and community

organizations to bring this proposal to fruition.

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motions/add/vica census proposal abk